Together for Quality (TFQ) RFP
Updated Answers to Posted Questions and Answers
Alabama Medicaid Agency
Posted 7/20/07

Vendor Conference Follow-Up:
23. Does the State have a preference between Security Assertion Markup Language (SAML) and WS-Federation?
In regards to State agencies connectivity, the State prefers WS-Federation because of the existing State infrastructure. However in regards to the ECST, existing data bases identified in the RFP, and providers connectivity, the State does not have a preference for both are acceptable protocols.

33. HIE applications and solutions across the industry are in the early stages of product evolution. The RFP seems to anticipate vendors developing, installing and then briefly supporting an HIE solution. Will ALMA entertain an Application Services Provider based model in which the vendor hosts and supports the solution as a fee for service? **An Application Services Provider (ASP) based model/solution is being considered by the TFQ Finance Workgroup for long term sustainability. However the State does not wish for providers to incur any additional reoccurring monthly fee during the TFQ Pilot grant period. If the vendor can incorporate the total amount of the monthly fees into the firm fixed price of the solution, the ASP based solution will be considered.**

Vendor Pre-Conference Questions:
4. REVISED: Must the hardware and the applications reside in Alabama?
There is no restriction on where the hardware and applications reside as long as the operational and ownership requirements in the RFP are met.
Are ASP-provided solutions preferred to locally hosted and state-managed solutions? ***Refer to #33 of Vendor Conference Follow-Up.***

Vendor Conference Questions:
9. Would the State consider a hosted solution with a monthly fee? ***Refer to #33 of Vendor Conference Follow-Up.***